

I strongly support RM-10782. The petition correctly states that CW is a mode just like any other available for use in the Amateur Radio Service bands below 50MHz. A number of digital modes have been developed which provide excellent weak signal communications. Many nations, including Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and New Zealand, have moved to eliminate the Morse code requirement for using HF bands in their Amateur Radio Services. The United States should also eliminate the Morse code requirement by removing Element 1 as a requirement for the General and Amateur Extra Class licenses in the Amateur Radio Service. The removal of Element 1 should be done as quickly as possible. The removal of Element 1 has already been considered by the FCC. The only reason for retaining the Morse code requirement was the international treaty obligation which was eliminated in July 2003. Thus an expedited rule making decision removing Element 1 without further discussion or consideration should be undertaken by the Commission.